



Update from the Annual Sitting ...

The 8th UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting took place at Exeter University in the South West of England in July. Over 300 MYPs from across the country gathered to plan campaigns, discuss the issues that affect young people in their area and have a great four days together.

MYPs got straight down to it, participating in topical debates. They discussed controversial subjects such as terrorism, the death penalty, equality and access to public transport.

Throughout the weekend MYPs split into groups; there were seven groups developing different aspects of the UK Youth Parliament manifesto, three groups covering each of the UK-wide campaigns and two groups involved in video and media. You'll be hearing more about the UK-wide campaigns and the manifesto later in the autumn.

MYPs also had the chance to hear from Members of Parliament. The Sitting was opened with a keynote speech

from Ben Bradshaw MP, Minister for the South West. MYPs asked challenging questions on subjects ranging from health to the economy. It was an informative session and Ben was impressed by the quality and depth of knowledge of the MYPs.

There were video messages from two other Ministers: Rosie Winterton MP from the Department for Transport and Bridget Prentice MP from the Ministry of Justice. They both praised the MYPs for their



successes over the past year, encouraging them to continue their work. Bridget Prentice added that she hoped to see MYPs debating in the House of Commons in the next year.

The MYPs also know how to have fun. There was a very popular activities session where MYPs tried out belly dancing and tai chi,

whilst others played traditional games like football and rounders. There was also entertainment in the evenings: bingo, quizzes, films and a disco.

Other highlights included the Colombian Night, where MYPs helped to raise money for Fruto del Espiritu, a charity which supports disadvantaged families

in Colombia, a ground shaking performance from the amazing dance troupe Flava and a legendary dance off between the regions and nations that closed the Sitting.

It was an enjoyable and exhausting four days where MYPs certainly made their mark.

What did MYPs make of it?



The Annual Sitting was amazing - three hundred passionate and energetic young people all coming together in the name of youth representation. I learnt lots from the Annual Sitting: training for my job as an MYP and Media Rep and how to effectively campaign. The Sitting inspired me to keep going with UK Youth Parliament as our work really does make a difference.
Jacob Rix, MYP for Norfolk



The Sitting gave me the opportunity to learn about what is happening in other areas of the UK and how I can translate that to my area. I now want to do more to help young people not just on a local or national scale but on an international scale. I am inspired to get more young people involved in the UK Youth Parliament and decision making in general.
Laura Gorman, MYP for Dundee



I made new friends and met interesting characters who have inspired me to stand again for election. I also participated in an insightful debate on the death penalty and really enjoyed the entertainment. However the part I enjoyed the most was the togetherness of over three hundred young people from around the country and Flava weren't too bad either!
Sam Burge, MYP for Essex